

Harbor Area Employers' Council Handles 12 Labor Agreements With Seven Unions Each Year

The Harbor Area Employers' Council was formed in the last months of 1948 and was formally incorporated as a non-profit California corporation on Feb. 28, 1949. One of its sponsors was A. J. McCown, president of the McCown Drug Stores, Inc., who saw the need for close-knit employer organization in dealing with organized labor. Not only did McCown put much time into the new organization but he invested liberally from his financial resources to give the retail element involved a solid organization through which to deal with organized labor.

The present Employers' Council was not the first in this area. It had been preceded by a half dozen similar organizations, each lasting only a few months under the weight of problems involved. The directors of the present Employers' Council determined that such an organization was imperative to the growth of the Harbor Area, and the present one is the first and only such group which has lasted more than a few months or a year. The Harbor Area Employers' Council is now in its sixth year. Starting with a membership of 25 in 1948, the Council now has a membership of 300, including employers from San Pedro, Torrance, Wilmington, Gardena, Long Beach, Compton, Alondra and other areas.

In addition to representing its members in the handling of grievances and other problems of the Council, through industry committees elected from the various categories under the several contracts involved, negotiates some 12 labor agreements

with seven unions each year. These negotiation committees are given advice by Mr. John T. Binkley, of the law firm of Gray, Binkley & Platter, who is counsel for the Harbor Area Employers' Council, and by its executive secretary.

Briefly stated, the purposes and objects of the Harbor Area Employers' Council provide that the corporation "obtain, foster and maintain collective action by employers and groups of employers to the end that stable, peaceful and harmonious relations between employers and employees will be promoted and established; that wages, hours and working conditions, fair and just to the employers and employees, be fixed and maintained; and that honest and faithful observance of all agreements and obligations of all parties concerned be procured, all recognizing the public interest as paramount."

"To promote and encourage the organization of employer groups and to promote cooperation among such groups and individual employers for mutual counsel, aid and protection in the matter of labor relations.

To promote the recognition and exercise of the rights of employers to bargain collectively.

"To collect, compile and distribute information and statistics relating to any of the matters pertaining to its purposes and objects."

On March 28, 1949, the Board of Directors included many civic and commercial leaders of the area, including: McCown, Paul Diamond of the Gay Shop here, Walter G. Hooke, then of S. H. Kress & Co.; J. C. Caldwell of Caldwell's Department Store,

(Wilmington); Harry M. Carr of San Pedro; Leon P. Ferrer of Harbor Laundry, San Pedro; H. W. Smith of A. J. Photo Service, Inc., and T. K. Ware, prominent Southern California grocer residing in Gardena. At the meeting, Frank S. Selover, newspaper reporter and editor for 25 years, was retained as executive secretary of the Council, and since has held that position.

The present Board of Directors includes McCown, who is president; Diamond, first vice president; Carr, secretary-treasurer; Smith, and Caldwell, all of the original Board. In addition there are Louis Arbetter of Allen Jewelers, Torrance; N. Blake of Robertson and Blake Hardware, Gardena, fourth vice president; Clyde Dunlap Jr. of Dunlap Department Stores; J. A. Elmhorn of Floyd's Stationery Co., San Pedro; K. V. Harrison of Gardena; J. W. Jensen, of Better Food Markets; Charles V. Jones of Torrance Hardware; Sam Levy of Levy's Department Store; Frank R. Moore, San Pedro property owner; C. L. Prow of J. J. Newberry Co. Pacific Coast office of Los Angeles; E. W. Spear of Spear's Store for Men, Wilmington, third vice president; A. J. Moe, San Pedro druggist, second vice president; W. O. Clausen of Clausen Bros., Wilmington; H. E. Petro, general manager of McCown Drug Stores, Inc.; Norman Horwitz, Gardena grocer; and Ken M. Unmacht, San Pedro grocer.

The Harbor Area Employers' Council is headquartered in offices at 1731 Border Ave.

Benefit to All Goal of Riviera Homeowners

Surprising to many Californians passing through the beach cities on Highway 101 is the fact that the 1200 charming individual homes and 200 apartments, situated on the rolling slopes just north of Palos Verdes and fronting on the ocean, are actually a part of the widespread city of Torrance.



Proud of their unsurpassed location and wishing to guard against invasion of any type of business or building that might harm the whole, the Homeowners Association of the area, known as Hollywood Riviera, is primarily interested in the welfare of the entire community.

The group meets once a month at the recreation building in El Retiro Park, with possible infractions of the zoning laws, restrictions on home size and appeals to civic authorities the main items on the agenda.

William A. Mason, corresponding secretary, represents the area at City Council meetings. Walter A. Garrabrani, assisted by Vice President Ross C. Dorsett, Treasurer Leonard G. Kitzsch, and Recording Secretary Mrs. Rachel V. Sutherland, is currently serving as president of the association. Members of the executive board are Donald R. Whitney, Robert T. Byrne, Frederick W. Zens, and John C. Kinsey.

Local Party Men Organize Official Republican Club Of 68th Assembly District

The re-organized 68th District Republican Assembly, which includes Republican party workers from Torrance, Wilmington, San Pedro, and Lomita, is the outgrowth of an active Torrance Republican group.

It was largely through the efforts of local party workers that Governor Earl Warren and Senator William F. Knowland carried this area in the 1952 campaign. It was also through their efforts that such a large vote was given President Dwight Eisenhower and Congressional Candidate Bob Finch that same year.

Chairmaned by Torrance's former mayor, William H. Tolson, who is now a member of the Board of Education, the local group re-organized the inactive 68th District Republican Assembly and has since been the most active Republican party group of the district.

Assisting Tolson with the re-organization was Frank S. Selover, chairman of the 68th District of the Republican Central Committee of Los Angeles County. Selover now is executive vice-president of the 68th District Republican Club and also serves as vice-president of the Los Angeles County Republican Assembly, with which the 68th group is affiliated.

When Tolson resigned as president of the Assembly for business reasons, Leonard Di Miceli, San Pedro attorney, was elected

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Over 700 Torrance Girls Join Scouting Program

"Still sits the Scouthouse by the road, a ragged beggar, sunning."

This paraphrase of Whittier's famous poem aptly describes the site of the beginning of Girl Scouting in Torrance years ago. The Girl Scout House, still standing in the park at the rear of the YWCA, was built by their fathers to house girls making up the first lone troop. While antiquated, it is still the gathering place for several scout groups and during its existence, the organization has grown to 38 troops with 740 members in the Torrance district.



The motivating force behind this continuing growth is a program appealing to girls from ages seven through 18 and adapted to three age groups through Brownie, Intermediate and Senior programs. Girls of all creeds, races and national heritages engage in activities at the weekly meetings, covering 11 fields of interest aimed to develop knowledge and skills which will prepare them to be future homemakers.

In addition to the weekly meetings, various special events are planned, such as trips to industry and places of historical interest; get-togethers with other Scouts; hikes and bicycle trips. Various phases of outdoor life are also explored by troop camping in mountain, sea and desert areas and visits to the Scout-established Oatso and Pajarito camps.

Underlying the many fields of activity are idealistic standards aimed at the development of the individual Girl Scout as a world citizen.

Torrance District is a part of the Los Angeles Council of Girl Scouts which is affiliated with the world organization. This fact makes it possible for girls to learn the true meaning of world citizenship, for through the channels of the movement contact may be made with sister members everywhere.

Money to finance the Girl Scouts comes mainly from the Community Chest, and from the annual cookie sale. Other funds are realized from projects conducted by the girls themselves. Supporting the Troops in each endeavor in the Torrance district are 18 sponsoring bodies; among them various Parent Teacher associations, churches, and civic organizations. Spearheading the activities are 275 adult volunteers who contribute time, energy, and money to the Girl Scouts.

Mrs. Elizabeth Cowie is chairman of Torrance District, an area including Waterla, Seaside Ranchos, Ferry, El Nido, Madrona, North Torrance, and downtown Torrance. Alma Walton is publicity chairman for Torrance District and Adelaide Brest is Harbor Section public relations chairman.

Barber Shop Quartet Has Service Aims

The SPEBSQSA (Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America) is a non-profit service club which aids in raising money for many worthy causes and at the same time provides enjoyable entertainment.

A branch of the international organization, which has some 600 chapters and 4000 members, the Torrance group was organized in 1950. There are 25 members here, headed by Herbert Allen, president; Douglas McClay, vice-president; Howard Coursey, corresponding secretary; Francis Lehr, recording secretary; and Cliff Samson, treasurer. Starr Bose of Long Beach is musical conductor.



It is the custom of most barber shop quartets in the various cities throughout the United States to sing for any benefit requested. Following this custom, the local group gave a benefit concert for the Little League Baseball Club on July 25. Torrance members joined other chapters in Los Angeles at a picnic held Sept. 27 at the Pomona Fair, and were part of a 200-voice chorus in a special evening program in the Radio and TV Building.

This musical group, which meets every Thursday evening at the Bettie Thomas Studio, will be heard at other benefit affairs in the near future.

Kiwanis Set Sights on Youth Aid

Adhering to the ideals of Kiwanis everywhere, the Torrance group, organized 33 years ago, has sponsored many activities to aid and uplift the young people of the community.

Included in the welfare program are aid to underprivileged children here and the sponsoring of Boy and Girl Scout trips. Kiwanis carry out a "Learn to Swim" program for all Torrance youngsters by each summer paying for the transportation of between 4000 and 5000 children to the Alondra Park pool in North Torrance.

Yearly, Kiwanis plan a "Kids Day," with an interesting amusement program for the juveniles and a treasure hunt to raise funds for future children's activities. Local merchants donate gifts for the city-wide event and display the larger and more elaborate gifts in their show windows to interest adult donors. In the treasure hunt, children locate hidden capsules with a message inside telling them where to find prizes.

As many out-of-town visitors come here and enter into the spirit of "Kids Day," they also get-acquainted with Torrance.

Charles H. Ragsdale is president of the Torrance Kiwanis, assisted by Byron Scott, first vice-president, and Dr. G. M. Eastham, second vice-president. The service club holds a dinner meeting every Monday night at the American Legion Hall, inviting prominent visitors to address members.

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